



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

October 31, 2006

Alston & Bird LLP  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

### Letter Regarding Request For Refund of Publication Fee

This is in response to the request for refund for patent/serial number 10/656394, in the amount of \$300 for the publication fee.

The request is dismissed for the reason indicated below:

- The above-identified application was published in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 122(b). The publication fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(d) is required in each application published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) and 37 CFR 1.211. See 37 CFR 1.211(e). Accordingly, the publication fee paid in the above-identified application was required and will not be refunded. Also see MPEP 1126.
- The Office's records for the above-identified application show that a publication fee of \$300.00 was never received or processed. Therefore, no refund is due.
- The request for refund is prematurely filed. Applicant may file another request for a refund of the publication fee after four (4) weeks from the issue date of the patent if the application is not published as a patent application publication. The publication fee will not be refunded if the application is published as a patent application publication, even if it is published after the patent issues.
- A request for refund of the publication fee has already been processed. Therefore, no additional refund is due.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to The Office of Patent Publication, Pre-Grant Publication Division, 703-605-4283.

Kaletus King *Kaletus King*  
Office of Patent Publication  
Pre-Grant Publication Division